and this import is done through the State Trading Corporation of India (STC) and distributed all over India to minimize its impact in any particular region.

7. Duty-free import of vanaspati including bakery shortening and margarine from Sri Lanka has been restricted to 2.5 lakh metric tones per year.

8. Edible oils including vanaspati have been kept in the Negative List (Sensitive List) of India under the Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) which has become operational from 1.7.2006. It has also been decided to keep these items in the negative list of prospective free trade agreements or similar agreements.

9. Sick industrial units are allowed to register with the BIFR for rehabilitation.

Jobs to be created in SEZs

3684. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment of the total number of jobs that would be created in the SEZs sanctioned by Government, has been made so far;

(b) what would be the expected revenue loss to the exchequer, as units located in these SEZs would be exempt from taxes; and

(c) whether Government are thinking about some policy, whereby land allotted for SEZs would be linked to employment generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) At present, the Special Economic Zones established prior to the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 are providing direct employment to over 1.84 lakh persons. The 101 SEZs notified under the SEZ Act, 2005 have so far provided direct employment to about 32,578 persons. It is expected that these 101 SEZs when fully implemented, would provide about 15.47 lakhs jobs.

(b) The quantum of exemptions and incentives to the units is dependent on the investments and the export profits which cannot be estimated at

this stage. The benefits derived from multiplier effect of the investments and additional economic activity in the SEZs and the employment generated will far outweigh the tax exemptions.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

Caution for private sector regarding relationship between the tiller and the land

3685. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the first week of January, 2007, the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister cautioned the private sector to tread carefully, while entering the rural and agriculture sectors, stressing that the sacred relationship between the tiller and the land are respected;

(b) if so, Government are thinking of devising a mechanism so that the underlined ideas in part (a) above are achieved to an appreciable extent, and

(c) what are the salient features of that mechanism and what is the time-frame by which this would be established, so that rapid industrialization and economic development are not put on back-burner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) While addressing the Annual General Meeting of Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) on 8th January, 2007 the Prime Minister had observed that the issues such as land acquisition and displacement of people and their rehabilitation and resettlement should be transparently addressed and that a new Rehabilitation Policy will be finalized which should be more progressive, human and conducive to the long term welfare of all stakesholders.

(b) and (c) With reference to the issues raised on acquisition of land for setting up Special Economic Zones (SEZs), the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) has decided that the Ministry of Rural Development may be requested to reformulate a comprehensive Land Acquisition Act to